

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O R 201740Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3358

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2436

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IT

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON ENERGY CRISIS AND AFTERMATH

1. CHARGE WAS ABLE TO SEE DUCCI (DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS) BRIEFLY FEBRUARY 20. THE ITALIANS HAVE HIGH PRAISE FOR THE WAY THE SECRETARY CONDUCTED THE ENERGY CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON AND BROUGHT IT TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. DUCCI PARTICULARLY ADMIRERD THE U.S. EVALUATION OF THE ARAB REACTION TO THE CONFERENCE. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PRESS IN THE WEEKS BEFORE FEBRUARY 11 KEPT INSISTING THAT IF ITALY ATTENDED THE ARABS WOULD BE ALIENATED. THESE DIRE PREDICTIONS WERE NOT BORNE OUT AND, IN FACT, U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE ARABS HAVE GONE ON TO NEW HEIGHTS. DUCCI CLEARLY CONSIDERS THIS A MAJOR PLUS IN SUPPORT OF THE U.S.

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INITIATIVE ON THE ENERGY FRONT.

2. AT THE SAME TIME, THE ITALIANS ARE CONCERNED THAT THE ARABS HAVE A NUMBER OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE MISCHIEF.

HE MENTIONED THAT THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE WILL RESULT IN A MEETING OF PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS SOME TIME DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1974. (DUCCI REMARKED THAT GROMYKO, DURING HIS TALKS HERE THIS WEEK, ASKED MORO WHAT WAS MEANT BY A CONFERENCE OF PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS AND WHERE THIS WOULD LEAVE THE USSR WHICH IS BOTH AN IMPORTER AND EXPORTER.) AT THE SAME TIME, BOUMEDIENNE HAS ACHIEVED HIS AIM OF A SPECIAL UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER THE ENERGY CRISIS AND DUCCI BELIEVES THIS WILL RESULT IN THE UN CALLING FOR A WORLD CONFERENCE ON ENERGY PROBABLY SOME TIME IN 1975.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, THE EC NINE MUST REPLY TO THE REQUEST MADE BY THE ARAB MINISTERS IN COPENHAGEN LAST DECEMBER FOR A PROGRAM OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ARABS AND THE EC. THE ITALIANS DO NOT REPEAT NOT SEE HOW THE COMMUNITY CAN GIVE THE ARABS A NEGATIVE ANSWER. THERE IS POSSIBILITY FOR DELAY BUT THE EC WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO REACT POSITIVELY.

4. IN A FINAL COMMENT, THE DIRGEN SAID HE WAS UNABLE TO ENVISAGE HOW THE ACTIVITY OF THE ENERGY GROUP WOULD MESH WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR SETTLEMENT OF THE ARAB/ISRAELI SITUATION. HE WONDERED IF THE SECRETARY ENVISAGED THESE TO BE INDEPENDENT OF EACH OTHER OR COMPLEMENTARY, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO THE APPARENTLY IMMINENT MOVEMENT ON THE SYRIAN SIDE. BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, FOREIGN RELATIONS, IMPORTS, EXPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME02436
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P740146-0777
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740268/abbrzblk.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ROME
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WASHINGTON ENERGY CRISIS AND AFTERMATH
TAGS: ENRG, IT, US
To: STATE INFO BRUSSELS
BONN
COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN
THE HAGUE
LONDON
LUXEMBOURG

OSLO
OTTAWA
PARIS
TOKYO
EC BRUSSELS
NATO

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005